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The whole class gathers in the literacy meeting area.

Meeting Areas (Design Photo Essay Series)

The Sisters (Gail Boushey and Joan Moser)

We never used to have meeting areas in our classrooms, because students spent most of their time at desks, facing us as we taught lessons using an overhead or blackboard.

Now when we are arranging our classrooms, we make sure we have a whole group meeting space on the floor (regardless of the age of our students). We also design meeting spaces for small groups, or one on one conferring as well as partner work.

Each of the meeting areas has more than one purpose, and can be suitable for independent work, groups, or whole class instructions. We define the areas through carpets, bookshelves and tables.



The chimes is the signal for us to move into a meeting area - once the children hear the signal, they know the area where we are gathering will be announced.



The second meeting area has a math focus - we gather on this rug to use our ever-changing displays of our learning and thinking in math.

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A small triangular table is a just-right size for individual meetings with students. Here we confer about reading goals.



We also use the gathering rugs for small group meetings, and individual conferences.



Meetings in the literacy area are led from the chart paper area or by the desk, and the focus often shifts between the two to allow students to move and gain a bit more stamina for learning.